

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods of fabricating a free standing thin film of shape memory alloy material, and products made by the methods. A sacrificial layer of a metallic material is deposited onto the surface of a substrate. Then an amorphous shape memory alloy is sputter deposited onto the outer surface of the sacrificial layer. The sacrificial layer is etched away, leaving the thin film free standing, that is separated from the substrate. The thin film is annealed by heating into a crystalline state, with the annealing step carried out either after the film has been separated from the substrate, or while remaining attached to it.